(5) 2 Ammunition Sub Depot (18 Field Ammunition Depot), Mamoon (Pathankot), (29 April, 2001) : In the absence of sufficient proof, the Court of Inquiry has not been able to conclusively establish the cause of fire. The probable cause could be due to careless lighting of cigarette or match sticks.

(6) Ordnance Depot, Shakurbasti, New Delhi (6 June, 2001) :Thc cause of fire will only be ascertained after completion of Court of Inquiry, which is under progress.

(7) 2 Ammunition Sub Depot (24 Field Ammunition Depot) Birdhwal, Ganganagar (24 May, 2001) : The cause of fire will only be ascertained after completion of Court of Inquiry, which is under progress.

(8) Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur (6 August, 2001) :The cause of fire will only be ascertained after completion of Court of Inquiry, which is under progress.

The following steps have been taken to prevent such incidents in the Ordnance Depots:—

(i) All depots have been directed to update safety and security instructions.

(ii) All depots have been inspected by a Board of Officers to check adequacy of safety and security arrangements.;

(iii) Shortages in fiie fighting equipment are being made up and defective equipment repaired.

(iv) Unserviceable ammunition is being disposed off on priority.

(v) Allotment of additional funds for creation of more storage accommodation, for shifting ammunition presently stored on open plinths under canvas to Explosive Stores Houses.

Foreign Assistance in modernisation of ordnance depots

4171. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2011 given in Rajya Sabha on 9th August, 2001 and state:

(a) whether Government have sought/propose to seek assistance from foreign countries in modernising the ordnance depots; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

Conversion of INS Vikrant into a Maritime Museum

4172. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether INS Vikrant is being converted into a maritime museum; and

(b) if so, the details finalised with the Navy and Maharashtra Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) The State Government of Maharashtra had evinced interest in converting 'INS Vikrant' into a maritime museum. Accordingly, it was decided to gift the ship to the State Government for conversion into a museum. However, in April, 2000, the State Government conveyed its inability to implement the scheme. As such, it was decided to dispose of the ship as "scrap" and tenders were invited. However, in July 2000, the State Government of Maharashtra renewed their request for conversion of the ship into a museum. As such, the process initiated for disposal of the ship as "scrap" was kept in abeyance.

The State Government have since informed that the feasibility report and the site have been finalized. The State Government has been requested to shift the ship to an alternate berth and ensure the ship's safety.

The museum project is to be undertaken entirely by the Government of Maharashtra and is likely to take about three years to complete. No funding support by the Navy is envisaged.

Foreign defence personnel's training in defence establishments

4173. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Mmister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed foreign defence personnel to undergo training in defence establishments in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what security measures are taken to ensure that such trainees have no access to classified documents and other secret premises ?